

# COVID-19 – Europe and Eurasia

FACT SHEET #1, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2021

JULY 2, 2021

## KEY FIGURES\*

**54.7**

**MILLION**

Total Number of  
Confirmed COVID-19  
Cases in Region

**1.2**

**MILLION**

Total Number of  
Deaths Related to  
COVID-19 in Region

**560.6**

**MILLION**

Total Number of  
Vaccine Doses  
Administered in  
Region

*\*Source: Johns Hopkins University and Our World in Data, to date as of July 1, 2021; Figures are subject to change due to periodic adjustment and updating.*

## KEY MESSAGES

- The number of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) cases have steadily decreased in Europe and Eurasia<sup>1</sup> since April. However, despite falling infections, the health care systems in many central and eastern European countries continue to struggle to respond to the pandemic due to weak infrastructure and lack of access to COVID-19 vaccines, resulting in low vaccination rates compared to western European nations.
- In response, the U.S. Government (USG)—including USAID—is seeking to reduce COVID-19 cases and mortality in Europe and Eurasia while limiting the negative impacts of the pandemic on societies. Working with UN agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), USAID aims to facilitate widespread and equitable access to safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines; reduce morbidity and mortality from COVID-19, limit transmission, and strengthen health care systems; address immediate needs resulting from the pandemic; and support economies and other stressed systems to promote holistic recovery.
- To date, the USG has announced the donation of 80 million vaccine doses from its domestic stock and provision of an additional 500 million Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine doses to COVAX to support 92 low- and middle-income countries and African Union members. This includes vaccine doses to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine.
- Across the region, USAID is supporting national governments to develop response and vaccination plans and working with implementing partners to train health care workers, distribute hygiene commodities and medical supplies, and improve access to critical services negatively affected by the pandemic.

## TOTAL USAID FUNDING FOR THE COVID-19 RESPONSE IN EUROPE AND EURASIA<sup>2</sup>

USAID/BHA <sup>3</sup>	\$10,000,000
USAID/DDI <sup>4</sup>	\$10,000,000
USAID/E&E <sup>5</sup>	\$27,000,000
USAID/GH <sup>6</sup>	\$56,313,132
	<b>\$103,313,132</b>

<sup>1</sup> The Europe and Eurasia region includes Albania, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Kosovo, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Montenegro, the Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, the U.K., and Ukraine.

<sup>2</sup> Year of funding indicates the date of obligation—a legal commitment of funds in an Agency's accounting system with a corresponding procurement action—not appropriation, of funds. Funding represents amounts obligated as of June 1, 2021.

<sup>3</sup> USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA)

<sup>4</sup> USAID's Bureau for Development, Democracy, and Innovation (USAID/DDI)

<sup>5</sup> USAID's Bureau for Europe and Eurasia (USAID/E&E)

<sup>6</sup> USAID's Bureau for Global Health (USAID/GH)

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## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Europe and Eurasia was among the most heavily hit regions in the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic in terms of both cumulative cases and deaths per capita, with high-, middle-, and lower-income countries experiencing high caseloads. Italy experienced one of the first global spikes in spring 2020, while many central and eastern European countries reported the highest case and death rates globally in early 2021. The health care systems in these nations—including Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Moldova, and North Macedonia—struggled to respond to growing caseloads due to weak health infrastructure and lack of access to vaccines, which continue to contribute to low vaccination rates compared with western European nations. While infection and death rates continue to decline region wide, five countries—Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine—remain of concern.
- To date, COVAX—an initiative led by the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations, Gavi, the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF), and the UN World Health Organization (WHO) to support equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines globally, and to which the USG is the largest single donor—has distributed COVID-19 vaccine doses to Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, and Ukraine. However, among eastern European and Eurasian countries, only Serbia has administered at least one vaccine dose to more than 30 percent of the population, with Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kosovo, and Ukraine vaccinating less than 10 percent of the population to date.

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## USAID RESPONSE

### FACILITATE ACCESS TO SAFE AND EFFECTIVE COVID-19 VACCINATIONS

- As of June 21, the USG had announced its plans to distribute the first 80 million COVID-19 vaccine doses donated by the U.S. from its domestic supply to support global COVID-19 vaccination efforts. This includes the allocation of doses to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine. In addition, on June 10, President Joseph R. Biden announced that the U.S. will provide 500 million doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine to 92 lower- and lower middle-income countries and members of the African Union. Three countries in Europe and Eurasia are eligible: Kosovo, Moldova, and Ukraine.
- USAID is supporting national vaccination campaigns in Kosovo and Ukraine, including by generating plans and bolstering communication efforts, through partner UNICEF. USAID is also supporting UNICEF to train health care workers in cold chain and distribution logistics in Ukraine, and to strengthen the health care delivery system in Armenia and Moldova to prepare for and distribute COVID-19 vaccines.

### REDUCE MORBIDITY, MITIGATE TRANSMISSION, AND STRENGTHEN HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS

- In the spring of 2020, Italy experienced a significant COVID-19 surge, overwhelming the health care system. In response, USAID supported efforts to provide food assistance, improve ambulance services, train medical personnel, and invest in local production of pandemic-related supplies such as personal protective equipment (PPE). USAID worked with the U.S. Embassy in Italy to identify partners, including the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). In addition, USAID supplied critical medical commodities, including 50 ventilators, and other hospital equipment. With USAID funding, one NGO supported nearly 12,200 homeless people, provided food and other critical services to 3,210 older people, and offered telemedicine consultations to 3,600 individuals in need in Italy.
- USAID funds Azerbaijan’s State Health Agency and UNICEF to support the training of health care personnel in Azerbaijan. To date, USAID has helped establish 12 medical training centers, equipped with medical and information technology equipment, and trained 3,000 local health care workers. Additionally, in Bosnia and Herzegovina, USAID is working with WHO to support health care authorities to develop a COVID-19 national strategic preparedness and response plan to ensure a coordinated and effective response among national and international partners. USAID also supported efforts to bolster national response capacity in Armenia through a partnership with the American University of Armenia Fund. The program aims to strengthen the government’s ability to formulate and implement public policies to prevent and respond to health emergencies and further health sector surveillance, detection, and response capabilities.
- USAID is funding the UN Development Program in Serbia to equip a communication hub at the National Institute for Public Health, procure ambulances for health care centers, and distribute communication equipment at public centers for older

people, enabling individuals to communicate safely with family members. USAID is also procuring waste management equipment to help health care facilities safely dispose of medical waste related to the vaccination process.

- In Ukraine, USAID has built on existing agreements with UNICEF and WHO to expand support to the Government of Ukraine's Ministry of Health, aiming to improve coordination and address the immediate impacts of the pandemic on the health care system. Through an agreement with PATH, USAID supports national-level planning, response management, and coordination efforts, and is expanding technical assistance in areas such as analytics, case management, infection prevention and control (IPC), and risk communication and community engagement (RCCE). Additionally, USAID works with WHO to improve Moldova's electronic surveillance system to collect data and monitor COVID-19, as well as strengthen the capacity of public health regional rapid response teams.

## ADDRESS ACUTE NEEDS DRIVEN BY COVID-19

- In Ukraine, USAID funds partners to strengthen COVID-19 response capacity in conflict-affected areas, including through IPC and RCCE activities, as well as provide logistical and training support to health care facilities. Partners are also distributing essential medical supplies and improving the capacity of health care centers to detect, prevent, and control transmission of the virus responsible for COVID-19. Moreover, USAID programs include conducting sanitation and hygiene awareness activities, distributing hygiene commodities to vulnerable populations, and installing handwashing stations and water points in targeted public venues in eastern Ukraine.

## BOLSTER ECONOMIES AND OTHER CRITICAL SYSTEMS

- In Bosnia and Herzegovina and Georgia, USAID is improving access to critical services affected by the pandemic. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, USAID is bolstering access to education by helping learning institutions develop new techniques to adapt to online learning. Meanwhile, in Georgia, USAID provided PPE and sanitation supplies to ensure that in-person public programs, such as children's social services and youth probation, could continue to operate amid the pandemic. USAID has also supported training and protective measures in Georgia's tourism industry, ensuring continued access to income-generating opportunities, and the Central Election Commission during the October–November 2020 elections to help minimize COVID-19 transmission at polling stations and implement IPC measures for in-person voting.

## CONTEXT

- On December 31, 2019, the WHO Country Office in mainland People's Republic of China (PRC) reported that it became aware of several cases of pneumonia with an unknown cause in Wuhan city, Hubei Province, PRC. In January 2020, Chinese authorities identified a new type of coronavirus, which is responsible for the current COVID-19 pandemic. Shortly after, on January 13 and 15, respectively, the Ministry of Public Health in Thailand and the Ministry of Health, Labor, and Welfare in Japan reported the first cases of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 outside of PRC.
- Following the worldwide spread of the disease, WHO declared the COVID-19 outbreak a Public Health Emergency of International Concern on January 30, 2020, and a global pandemic on March 11, 2020.
- In March 2021, USAID re-activated the COVID-19 Task Force to protect the safety and security of USAID's global workforce, ensure that USAID can continue its life-saving mission across the world, and support partner countries in their response to COVID-19.

## USAID FUNDING OBLIGATED FOR THE EUROPE AND EURASIA COVID-19 RESPONSE<sup>1</sup>

AGENCY	PARTNERS	AMOUNT
<b>Albania</b>		
USAID/GH	UNICEF, WHO	\$2,050,000
<b>USAID FUNDING FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE IN ALBANIA</b>		<b>\$2,050,000</b>
<b>Armenia</b>		

USAID/E&E	i-Care Foundation, Smithsonian Institution	\$1,000,000
USAID/GH	American University of Armenia Fund, IFRC, UNICEF, WHO	\$3,650,000
<b>USAID FUNDING FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE IN ARMENIA</b>		<b>\$4,650,000</b>
<b>Azerbaijan</b>		
USAID/E&E	Cultivating New Frontiers in Agriculture	\$1,000,000
USAID/GH	IFRC, UNICEF, WHO	\$4,000,000
<b>USAID FUNDING FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE IN AZERBAIJAN</b>		<b>\$5,000,000</b>
<b>Belarus</b>		
USAID/GH	UNICEF, WHO	\$1,700,000
<b>USAID FUNDING FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE IN BELARUS</b>		<b>\$1,700,000</b>
<b>Bosnia-Herzegovina</b>		
USAID/GH	UNICEF, WHO	\$2,150,000
<b>USAID FUNDING FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE IN BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA</b>		<b>\$2,150,000</b>
<b>Bulgaria</b>		
USAID/GH	IFRC	\$500,000
<b>USAID FUNDING FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE IN BULGARIA</b>		<b>\$500,000</b>
<b>Georgia</b>		
USAID/GH	IFRC, UNICEF, WHO	\$2,650,000
<b>USAID FUNDING FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE IN GEORGIA</b>		<b>\$2,650,000</b>
<b>Italy</b>		
USAID/DDI	Development Alternatives, Inc.	\$10,000,000
USAID/E&E	AVSI Foundation, Community of Sant'Egidio, Catholic Relief Services, International Business and Technical Consultants Inc., Opera San Francesco Saverio Cuamm Collegio Universitario, The Rotary Foundation, Salesian Missions, Samaritan's Purse, University of Pittsburg Medical Center Italy	\$20,000,000
USAID/GH	Chemonics, FHI 360, IFRC	\$20,000,000
<b>USAID FUNDING FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE IN ITALY</b>		<b>\$50,000,000</b>
<b>Kosovo</b>		
USAID/GH	Chemonics, UNICEF, WHO	\$2,113,132
<b>USAID FUNDING FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE IN KOSOVO</b>		<b>\$2,113,132</b>
<b>Moldova</b>		
USAID/GH	UNICEF, WHO	\$3,150,000
<b>USAID FUNDING FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE IN MOLDOVA</b>		<b>\$3,150,000</b>
<b>Montenegro</b>		
USAID/GH	IFRC	\$300,000
<b>USAID FUNDING FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE IN MONTENEGRO</b>		<b>\$300,000</b>
<b>North Macedonia</b>		
USAID/GH	UNICEF, WHO	\$1,500,000
<b>USAID FUNDING FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE IN MACEDONIA</b>		<b>\$1,500,000</b>
<b>Romania</b>		
USAID/GH	IFRC	\$800,000

<b>USAID FUNDING FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE IN ROMANIA</b>		<b>\$800,000</b>
<b>Russia</b>		
USAID/GH	Chemonics	\$5,600,000
<b>USAID FUNDING FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE IN RUSSIA</b>		<b>\$5,600,000</b>
<b>Serbia</b>		
USAID/GH	UNICEF, WHO	\$2,050,000
<b>USAID FUNDING FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE IN SERBIA</b>		<b>\$2,050,000</b>
<b>Ukraine</b>		
USAID/BHA	Implementing Partners, UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), UNICEF	\$10,000,000
USAID/GH	CO 100% Life, PATH, UNICEF, WHO	\$4,100,000
<b>USAID FUNDING FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE IN UKRAINE</b>		<b>\$14,100,000</b>
<b>Regional</b>		
USAID/E&E	German Marshall Fund of the U.S.	\$5,000,000
<b>USAID FUNDING FOR REGIONAL COVID-19 RESPONSE</b>		<b>\$5,000,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID FUNDING FOR THE EUROPE AND EURASIA COVID-19 RESPONSE<sup>2</sup></b>		<b>\$103,313,132</b>

<sup>1</sup> Funding figures reflect funding obligated as of June 1, 2021. The total does not include the more than \$2.1 billion in USAID assistance for global COVID-19 response operations, including USG assistance to GAVI/COVAX. To date, USAID has obligated more than \$4 billion for COVID-19 response operations worldwide.

<sup>2</sup> Please note that this total does not include funding for USAID operating expenses (OE). Of the \$95 million appropriated for COVID-19-related OE as of July 1, approximately \$65 million had been obligated as of the same date. In addition, USAID transferred \$7 million in ESF-COVID funding to the USAID OE Account.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to organizations that are conducting relief operations. USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed; can be transferred quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietarily, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at USAID Center for International Disaster Information: [www.cidi.org](http://www.cidi.org).
- USAID has established an inbox ([covid-pse@usaid.gov](mailto:covid-pse@usaid.gov)) to coordinate private sector engagement around the COVID-19 response. In addition, the UN supports an initiative for businesses seeking to donate money, goods or services. Please visit [connectingbusiness.org](http://connectingbusiness.org) for more information.
- Finally, USAID reminds the public that it may accept unsolicited applications and proposals. The Agency has set up a COVID-19 Concepts portal at: <https://www.usaid.gov/coronavirus/funding-requests-unsolicited-proposals>.